

MINUTES OF
YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 4 2009

ATTENDEES:

Natalie Carmona	Karen Brennan
Caroline Orsi	Geoff Ball
Sarah Smith	Joann Sawitsky
Kendall Kyritz	Meghan Moore
Jared Kindy	Holly Kelly
Annie Maguire	Kathleen Kelly
Christine Wood	Alicia Sillars

The meeting was called to order at 7:35PM. Minutes of February meeting were read and reviewed. Geoff Ball made motion to approve them, Meghan Moore seconded.

TOPS 8th Grade Valentine Dance – February 6 had attendance of 260 students. We sold all roses at the dance, with \$400 being donated to the Mike Lauro Fund. The dance was 1.5 hours long, which students on YC Board thought was too short a period of time.

Newington Children's Theatre – February 28 had an attendance of 225 people, with 69 tickets sold on the Friday before. The production was very long with an intermission. There were a lot of restless young children with many running in the aisles undisciplined. Although the production was wonderful, about 10% of the audience left after intermission. It was geared toward mainly girls, with a wonderful 13 year old actress. It was felt that the productions should be geared to boys and girls in the same age group. The child actors were very engaging.

My Three Sons – March 6 – There was a discussion about two special needs students that are registered for TOPS. One of them wished to attend this event. Further discussion on when accommodations have to be made for a special needs child, just when does it go beyond "reasonable accommodation". Alicia had to contact more than nine people to help this child attend this event. Parents of these children should be contacted two weeks before event.

A discussion regarding The Depot followed regarding opening it up to 7th/8th graders, perhaps one or two nights a month. Most high school students only go if an event, such as a band, is going on. Janice Marzano, Depot Director, feels that if they go in the 7/8th grade, they will be tired of it by 9/10th grade.

The question raised was that what can middle school students do in town since The Depot should be for high school students only. TOPS events are mainly what this age group does.

Upcoming TOPS Events:

....7th/8th Grade Ice Skating Party – Stamford Twin Rinks – March 27

....Spring Fling Dance – April 17

....Clash Bash – April 24

....Hindley Fair Night – May 8

Community Arts Festival – March 7 – at Town Hall. We need volunteers to help out at the event. There will be a Magician at 12:15 PM. Many town groups are participating in this event: the Depot; the Kiwanis Club; Darien Nature Center; Darien Dance Center; Darien Visual Arts Center; Parent Awareness; Darien Environmental Group; the Youth Commission; Robek's.

Tilley Pond Regatta – May 3. There will be boat-building workshops, and Alicia has plenty of boats for building !!

Summer Camp –

For Summer Camp 2009 we have a total of 107 children, 79 of which were registered in the office, and 38 online.

Hindley

Holmes

Town Hall

Staff training for Summer Camp will begin the weekend before the end of school, which ends June 19. We may all have to meet at Town Hall instead of separate schools the first day of camp.

MSSAP – registration begins on March 9.

BUDGET – Board of Selectman approved Budget as is.

SUMMER CONCERTS AT WEED BEACH – “Annie and the Natural Wonder Band” plus others will perform this year. There will be a Sandcastle Contest on June 24 at 4:30PM. Movies at Beach will begin July 1.

Holly Kelly will be leaving the YC. Holly also is on the boards of TOPS, Kid-to-Kid, and Person-to-Person. Diane Bartson will replace Holly Kelly.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Clark

Recording Secretary

